UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24335
22 July 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made on 9 July 1992 by Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the series of incidents affecting the safety of personnel assigned to the United Nations Humanitarian Programme.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abd al-Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq on 9 July 1992

Commenting on the statement of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General of the United Nations issued on 9 July 1992 concerning the series of incidents affecting the safety of personnel assigned to the United Nations Humanitarian Programme, Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated as follows:

"It is astonishing that the statement of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General avoided identifying the locations at which the incidents took place. As is well known to the Office of the Coordinator of the United Nations Programme in Baghdad, all of the incidents took place in the northern governorates. The most recent was the attack on the premises of the United Nations Guards Contingent in Irbil on 8 July 1992 in which two of its members were injured, as we were informed by the officer in charge of the Contingent in Baghdad. The Coordinator of the United Nations Programme and the officer in charge of the United Nations Guards Contingent must have notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the details of these incidents and of the locations at which they took place. Why then did the Spokesman for the Secretary-General neglect to mention these details? The omission appears to be deliberate, because the Secretary-General of the United Nations knows very well, as does the entire world, that the government agencies have no presence in the northern governorates and that those governorates have for several months been a wide-open field for brigands, thieves and irresponsible groups and elements that have the direct support and encouragement of the United States of America and the countries allied with it. Responsibility for these incidents therefore falls on the United States of America and the coalition countries that have imposed this state of anarchy, in violation of the norms of international law, on the pretext of creating a "safe haven". Furthermore, the Kurdish parties also bear responsibility for these incidents. This, then, is what has been called the "safe haven" which the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and those of their allies have endeavoured to create. In this connection, it must be pointed out that the Iraqi authorities have provided protection to United Nations personnel and the locations at which they are stationed and that there have been no incidents in all of Iraq except for those to which we have referred in places where the Iraqi authorities have no presence. The Iraqi Government has provided assistance and facilities to United Nations personnel, as most recently exemplified in the immediate response of the Iraqi authorities concerned to the request of the Office of the Coordinator in order to ensure the well-being of the injured and their evacuation from the country. This stems from the concern of the Iraqi side for the safety of those assigned to the United Nations Humanitarian Programme in Iraq.

"We have to inquire about the nature of the cooperation that the Secretary-General expects from the Iraqi authorities in ensuring the security and safety of United Nations personnel at a time when there are no Iraqi authorities in the areas that are experiencing a state of anarchy and where such assaults are being made."